

This Page Is Inserted by IFW Operations
and is not a part of the Official Record

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

- BLACK BORDERS
- TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- FADED TEXT
- ILLEGIBLE TEXT
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- COLORED PHOTOS
- BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

As rescanning documents *will not* correct images,
Please do not report the images to the
Image Problem Mailbox.

(19)



Europäisches Patentamt

European Patent Office

Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 0 996 179 A1

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(43) Date of publication:
26.04.2000 Bulletin 2000/17

(51) Int Cl.7: H01M 2/06, H01M 2/08,
H01M 2/30, H01M 10/40,
H01M 2/02

(21) Application number: 99121063.4

(22) Date of filing: 21.10.1999

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
MC NL PT SE
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

(72) Inventors:
• Hatazawa, Tsuyonobu
Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo (JP)
• Hatsuta, Kazuhito
Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo (JP)
• Hara, Tomitaro
Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo (JP)

(30) Priority: 23.10.1998 JP 30308698

(71) Applicant: SONY CORPORATION
Tokyo (JP)

(74) Representative:
MÜLLER & HOFFMANN Patentanwälte
Innere Wiener Strasse 17
81667 München (DE)

(54) Nonaqueous-electrolyte secondary battery

(57) A nonaqueous-electrolyte secondary battery (1) is disclosed which is capable of maintaining satisfactory adhesiveness of leads (3,4) of terminals of electrodes in heat-welded portions of a case (2) of the nonaqueous-electrolyte secondary battery without deterioration of the moistureproofing characteristics. A battery element is accommodated in a case constituted by laminated films such that the battery element is encapsulated by heat welding. Leads of terminals of electrodes

electrically conducted with the electrodes which constitute the battery element are exposed to the outside portion of the nonaqueous-electrolyte secondary battery through heat-welded portions. Portions of the leads of the terminals of the electrodes corresponding to the heat-welded portions are coated with an olefine adhesive layer containing a titanate coupling material and a coating layer made of resin which is the same as resin which forms the innermost layer of each of the laminated films.

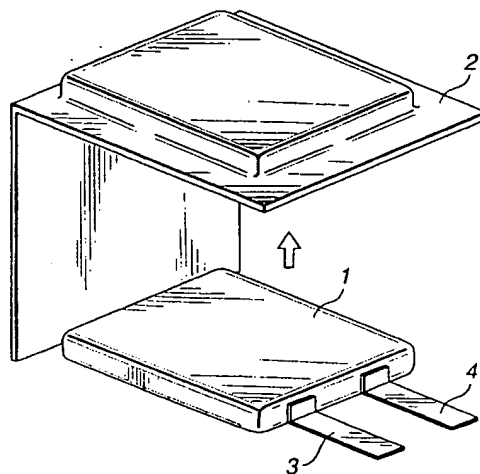


FIG.1

EP 0 996 179 A1

Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION5 Field of the Invention

[0001] The present invention relates to a nonaqueous-electrolyte secondary battery incorporating a battery device accommodated in a case constituted by a laminated film, and more particularly to an improvement in a portion for heat-welding leads of terminals of electrodes and the case of the battery to each other.

10

Description of the Related Art

[0002] In recent year, a variety of portable electronic apparatuses including a camcoder, a portable telephone and a portable computer have been marketed. Under the foregoing circumstances, reduction in the size and weight of the foregoing electronic apparatuses has been attempted. As a portable power source for the electronic apparatus, a battery, in particular, a secondary battery, and more particularly, nonaqueous-electrolyte secondary battery (a so-called lithium ion battery) have energetically been researched and developed to realize a battery which has a small thickness and which can be folded.

[0003] As an electrolyte of the shape variable battery, research and development of solidified electrolytic solution have energetically been performed. In particular, a solid polymer electrolyte having a structure that lithium salt is dissolved in a gel electrolyte which is a solid electrolyte containing a plasticizer has attracted attention.

[0004] On the other hand, research and development have been performed about a variety of batteries of a type which is encapsulated in laminated films obtained by bonding plastic films or a plastic film and a metal member to each other to use the advantages of the battery of the foregoing type that the thickness and weight can be reduced. It is an important fact for a battery of the foregoing type to realize reliable sealing characteristic as well as or better than that of a metal tube.

[0005] To meet the foregoing requirement, an attempt has been suggested in, for example, Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 56-71278. According to the disclosure, leads coated with resin are used to draw out terminals of electrodes from a sheet member which encapsulates a battery so as to improve sealing characteristics.

[0006] In Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 3-62447, an attempt has been suggested to improve the sealing characteristics by using polyethylene denatured with acrylic acid or polypropylene denatured with acrylic acid as the resin employed to form the seal portion of the encapsulating member.

[0007] Another attempt has been suggested in, for example, Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 9-288998. According to the disclosure, leads coated with polyolefine resin denatured with maleic acid are used to draw out terminals of electrodes from a sheet shape member which encapsulates a battery. Also the sealing portion of the sheet shape member for encapsulating the battery is made of polyolefine resin denatured with maleic acid. Thus, the sealing characteristic can be improved.

[0008] The method disclosed in Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 56-71278 having the structure that the member for encapsulating the battery is made of one type of the resin, however, encounters inward penetration of water through the resin. What is worse, penetration and volatilization of the electrolytic solution cannot be prevented. Therefore, the foregoing method cannot preferably be applied to a battery which uses a solid electrolyte composed of organic solvent.

[0009] The methods disclosed in Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 3-62447 and Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 9-288998 has a structure that the overall polarity of the resin is raised to improve the sealing characteristics with the terminals of the electrodes made of metal. Therefore, the affinity with water is undesirably enhanced in spite of improvement in the sealing characteristics. As a result, there arises a problem in that water is undesirably introduced in the long term.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0010] In view of the foregoing, an object of the present invention is to sufficiently maintain the sealing characteristics of leads of terminals of electrodes in the heat welding portion of the case without deterioration in the resistance against moisture penetration. Another object of the present invention to provide a nonaqueous-electrolyte secondary battery exhibiting excellent moisture resistance and long lifetime against charge-discharge cycles.

[0011] To achieve the foregoing objects, according to one aspect of the present invention, there is provided a non-aqueous-electrolyte secondary battery comprising: a case constituted by laminated films; a battery element accommodated in the case and encapsulated in the case by heat welding; and leads of terminals of electrodes electrically conducted with the electrodes which are exposed to the outside portion of the case such that the leads are surrounded by heat-welded portions, wherein a portion of at least either of the leads of the terminals of the electrodes corresponding

EP 0 996 179 A1

to the heat-welded portion is coated with an olefine adhesive layer containing a titanate coupling material and a coating layer made of resin which is the same as resin which forms the innermost layer of each of the laminated films.

[0012] As described above, the portions of the leads of the terminals of the electrodes corresponding to the heat-welded portions are coated with the olefine adhesive layer containing the titanate coupling material. Thus, the adhesiveness of the metal leads of the terminals of the electrodes with respect to the resin can considerably be improved.

[0013] The olefine adhesive layer is provided for only the portions corresponding to the leads of the terminals of the electrodes. Therefore, enhancement of the affinity with respect to water occurs in very small regions. Hence it follows that introduction of water can substantially be prevented.

[0014] As described above, the olefine adhesive layer is coated with the coating layer made of the resin which is the same as the resin which forms the innermost layer of each of the laminated films. The coating layer can be integrated with the case so that the adhesiveness is furthermore improved. Moreover, the olefine adhesive layer is coated with the foregoing coating layer so that introduction of water from the foregoing portion is satisfactorily prevented.

[0015] Other objects, features and advantages of the invention will be evident from the following detailed description of the preferred embodiments described in conjunction with the attached drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0016]

Fig. 1 is an exploded perspective view showing an example of the structure of a nonaqueous-electrolyte secondary battery according to the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a schematic perspective view showing an example of the structure of the nonaqueous-electrolyte secondary battery according to the present invention;

Fig. 3 is a partially-broken schematic and perspective view showing a heat-welded portion of a case; and

Fig. 4 is a cross sectional view showing a lead of a terminal of a negative electrode.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0017] The structure of a nonaqueous-electrolyte secondary battery according to the present invention will now be described with reference to the drawings.

[0018] The nonaqueous-electrolyte secondary battery according to the present invention is, for example, a solid electrolyte battery or a gel electrolyte battery. As shown in Figs. 1 and 2, a battery element 1 contains a solid electrolyte or a geleelectrolyte placed between an active material layer of a positive electrode and an active material layer of a negative electrode. The battery element 1 is accommodated in a case 2 constituted by laminated films. Then, the peripheral portion of the case 2 is welded with heat so that the battery element 1 is encapsulated.

[0019] The battery element 1 is provided with a negative-electrode terminal lead 3 which is electrically connected to the negative electrode, which constitutes the battery element 1, and a positive electrode terminal lead 4 which is electrically connected to the positive electrode. The negative-electrode terminal lead 3 and the positive electrode terminal lead 4 are draw out to the outside portion of the case 2.

[0020] The nonaqueous-electrolyte secondary battery according to the present invention has a structure that the negative-electrode terminal lead 3 and the positive electrode terminal lead 4 are held by heat-welded portions of the case 2 and exposed to the outside portion of the case 2 when the battery element 1 is encapsulated by the case 2. At least portions of the negative-electrode terminal lead 3 and the positive electrode terminal lead 4 which are held by the laminated films and arranged to be welded with heat are attempted to realize a satisfactory adhesiveness with the metal which constitutes the terminals and that with the innermost layers of the laminated films. To achieve this, each of the foregoing portions of the negative-electrode terminal lead 3 and the positive electrode terminal lead 4 is coated with an olefine adhesive layer containing a titanate coupling material and resin which is the same as resin which forms the innermost layer of the laminated film.

[0021] The foregoing structure is shown in Fig. 3. The case 2 is constituted by three layers consisting of, for example, a case protective layer 21, an aluminum layer 22 and a heat-welded layer (the innermost layer of the laminate) 23. The peripheral portion of the case 2 is welded with heat so that the inside portion of the case 2 is sealed. Therefore, the peripheral portions of the case 2 each having a predetermined width serve as heat-welded portions 2a. The heat-welded layers 23 in the heat-welded portion 2a are welded to each other with heat.

[0022] Therefore, the negative-electrode terminal lead 3 and the positive electrode terminal lead 4 traverse the heat-welded portions 2a. Thus, the negative-electrode terminal lead 3 and the positive electrode terminal lead 4 are drawn out to the outside portion of the case 2.

[0023] In the present invention, portions of the negative-electrode terminal lead 3 and the positive electrode terminal lead 4 corresponding to the heat-welded portions 2a are coated with an olefine adhesive layer 5 and a coating layer

EP 0 996 179 A1

6. Fig. 4 shows an example of the structure for coating the negative-electrode terminal lead 3. The negative-electrode terminal lead 3 is first coated with the olefine adhesive layer 5. Then, the olefine adhesive layer 5 is coated with the coating layer 6 made of resin which is the same as resin for forming the innermost layer (the heat-welded layer 23) of the laminated film which constitutes the case 2.

5 **[0024]** The olefine resin for forming the olefine adhesive layer 5 may be any one of a variety of olefine resin materials, such as polyethylene, polypropylene, denatured polyethylene or denatured polypropylene, having a commercial moistureproofing grade. As an alternative to this, adhesive polyolefine resin may be employed which is represented by "BONDYNE" which is trade name of Sumitomo Chemical and "POLYTACK" which is trade name of Idemitsu Petrochemistry. Note that a mixture of two or more types of the foregoing materials may be employed. The employed material is diluted in solvent, such as toluene, so that solution is prepared. Then, the surfaces of the leads of the terminals of the electrodes are coated with the foregoing solution by using a brush or a dispenser. Then, the wet portions are heated so as to be dried so that the olefine adhesive layer 5 is formed.

10 **[0025]** Then, a titanate coupling material exemplified later is mixed in an adequate quantity with the olefine adhesive layer 5. Thus, satisfactory adhesiveness with the metal constituting the terminals and that with the resin which constitutes the innermost layer of the laminated film can furthermore reliably be obtained without any deterioration in the moistureproofing characteristic.

15 **[0026]** The titanate coupling material is exemplified by tetraalkoxy titanium compounds expressed by general formula $Ti(OR)_4$ (where R is carbon hydride), such as diisopropoxy bis (ethylacetoacetate) titanium, tetraisopropoxytitanium, tetra-n-butoxytitanium, tetrakis (2-ethylhexyloxy) titanium, tetrastearoyloxytitanium and tetramethoxytitanium or an acylate compound obtainable from reactions between the foregoing compound and carboxylic acid anhydride.

20 **[0027]** Also any one of the following materials may be employed: titanium xylate compounds expressed by general formula $(HOYO)_2Ti(OR)_2$ or $(H_2NYO)_2Ti(OR)_2$ (where each of Y and R is carbon hydride), such as diisopropoxybis (acetylacetonate) titanium, isopropoxy (2-ethyl-1, 3-hexanediorate) titanium, direction (2-ethylhexoxy) bis (2-ethyl-1, 3-hexanediorate) titanium, di-n-butoxybis (triethanolamine) titanium, tetraacetylacetate titanium, hydroxybis (lactate) and titanium.

25 **[0028]** As an alternative to this, a titanate coupling material composed of a titanium compound or an alcoxypolytitanylacylate compound selected from a group consisting of the following materials may be employed: isopropyl triisostealoyl titanate, isopropyltri-n-dodecylbenzenesulfonyl titanate, isopropyltris (dioctylpyrophosphate) titanate, tetraisopropylbis (dioctylphosphite) titanate, tetraoctylbis (ditridecylphosphite) titanate, tetra (2, 2-diaryloxymethyl-1-butyl) bis (ditridecyl) phosphite titanate, bis (dioctylpyrophosphate) oxyacetate titanate, bis (dioctylpyrophosphate) ethylene titanate, isopropyltrioctanoyl titanate, isopropyltrimethacryloylisostealoyl titanium, isopropylisostealoyldiacryl titanate, isopropyltri (dioctylphosphate) titanate, isopropyltricumylphenyl titanate and isopropyltri (N-aminoethyl, aminoethyl) titanate. The foregoing material may be employed solely or mixture of the foregoing materials may be employed.

30 **[0029]** One of the foregoing materials may be employed or a mixture of two or more materials may be mixed with each other so as to be blended into the olefine adhesive layer 5.

35 **[0030]** The coating layer 6 used to coat the olefine adhesive layer 5 is made of the resin which is the same as the resin which forms the innermost layer of the laminated film. Any one of a variety of the following olefine resin materials each having the commercial moistureproofing grade may be employed: polyethylene, polypropylene, denatured polyethylene and denatured polypropylene. As the bonding method, a film made of the foregoing olefine resin may be used, followed by contact-bonding the olefine resin film or by welding the same with heat. As an alternative to this, an insert molding method or the like may be employed.

40 **[0031]** The electrode terminal leads (the negative-electrode terminal lead 3 and the positive electrode terminal lead 4) are connected to the corresponding positive and negative electrodes. It is preferable that the material of the positive electrode terminal lead 4 is aluminum, titanium or their mixture from a viewpoint of realizing a high potential and a characteristic free from dissolution. It is preferable that the negative-electrode terminal lead 3 may be made of copper, nickel or their alloy.

45 **[0032]** Since the negative-electrode terminal lead 3 made of nickel or the like some times raises a problem of unsatisfactory adhesiveness, the olefine adhesive layer 5 and the coating layer 6 may be provided for only the negative-electrode terminal lead 3.

50 **[0033]** The innermost layer of the laminated film must have resistance against the electrolytic solution and penetration of moisture. To meet the foregoing requirements, it is preferable that polyethylene, polypropylene or a denatured material of polyethylene or polypropylene is employed. The foregoing resin, however, suffers from poor adhesiveness with metal forming the terminals of the electrodes. To simply improve the adhesiveness with metal, it might be feasible to employ resin denatured with acrylic acid or maleic acid or resin having the polarity raised by an ionomer process. If the polarity is raised by the foregoing method, also affinity with water is undesirably enhanced. In the foregoing case, only initial adhesiveness is realized. As the time elapses, water is introduced greatly as compared with the denatured material, causing the adhesiveness to deteriorate. As a result, water in a large quantity undesirably penetrates. Therefore, it is inadvisable to provide the foregoing olefine resin having the improved polarity for the innermost layer of the

EP 0 996 179 A1

resin provided for the leads of the terminals of the electrode or the laminated film to obtain the adhesiveness with metal which constitutes the terminals of the electrodes.

[0034] In the present invention, the olefine adhesive layer 5 is formed on metal which constitutes the leads of the terminals of the electrode, the olefine adhesive layer 5 containing the titanate coupling material mixed in a proper quantity and having improved adhesiveness with metal without deterioration of the moistureproofing characteristic. Therefore, a satisfactory state of adhesion can be realized between metal constituting the leads of the terminals of the electrodes and the olefine resin provided for the innermost layer of titanate laminated film such that penetration of water can significantly be prevented.

[0035] Moreover, the olefine adhesive layer 5 is made of the resin (the coating layer 6) which is the same as the resin which constitutes the innermost layer of the laminated film. Therefore, the problem that the olefine adhesive agent absorbs moisture before use of the nonaqueous-electrolyte secondary battery can be prevented. Hence it follows that strong adhesion with the resin constituting the innermost layer of the laminated film and having the polarity, which has not been improved, can be realized by using heat.

[0036] The olefine adhesive agent has a structure that the olefine resin contains the titanate coupling material by 0.3 wt% to 20 wt%, preferably 0.5 wt% to 10 wt%.

[0037] If the quantity of the titanate coupling material is 0.3 wt% or smaller, the adhesiveness cannot be improved. If the quantity is 20 wt% or larger, strong coagulation of the titanate coupling material inhibits formation of a strong adhesive layer. To form a strong adhesiveness, it is preferable that the quantity is 0.5 wt% or larger. To realize a uniform material, it is preferable that the quantity is 10 wt% or smaller.

[0038] When the thickness of the olefine adhesive layer 5 containing the titanate coupling material is 0.5 μm or smaller, the adhesiveness cannot be improved. If the thickness is 100 μm or larger, the mechanical strength required for the adhesive layer cannot be obtained. If the thickness is 1 μm or smaller, the operation for forming a uniform layer cannot easily be performed. If the thickness is 50 μm or larger, water in an excessively large quantity penetrates the olefine adhesive layer 5.

[0039] The thickness of the coating layer 6, which is formed on the olefine adhesive layer 5 containing the titanate coupling material and which is made of the resin which is the same as the resin which constitutes the innermost layer of the laminated film, is not less than 1 μm nor more than 100 μm , preferably not less than 5 μm nor more than 50 μm . If the thickness is 1 μm or smaller, the effect of protecting the olefine adhesive layer 5 from moisture required before use cannot be realized. If the thickness is 100 μm or larger, an excessively large quantity of water penetrates the coating layer 6.

[0040] As a simple and reliable method of forming the coating layer 6 on the olefine adhesive layer 5, the heat welding method may be employed. If the thickness of the coating layer 6 is 5 μm or smaller, the thickness is undesirably changed to about 1 μm during the welding process. Therefore, it is preferable that the thickness of the coating layer 6 is 5 μm or larger. The coating layer 6 is an intermediate layer between the olefine adhesive layer 5 and the innermost layer of the laminated film. Therefore, an excessively large thickness is not required. To prevent a loss of electricity and heat which are used during the heat welding process, it is preferable that the thickness is 50 μm or smaller.

[0041] When the battery element 1 is a solid electrolyte battery or a gel electrolyte battery, a polymer material for preparing the solid polymer electrolyte may be any one of the following materials: silicon gel, acrylic gel, acrylonitrile gel, polyphosphagen denatured polymer, polyethylene oxide, polypropylene oxide, their composite polymer, crosslinked polymer, denatured polymer, fluorine polymer, for example, poly (vinylidene fluoride), poly (vinylidene fluoride-co-hexafluoropolypropylene), poly (vinylidene fluoride-co-tetrafluoroethylene) and poly (vinylidene fluoride-co-trifluoroethylene). Also a mixed material of the foregoing materials may be employed. As a matter of course, the polymer material is not limited to the foregoing material.

[0042] A method of obtaining the solid electrolyte or the gel electrolyte laminated on the positive-electrode active material layer or the negative-electrode active material layer will now be described. Solution is prepared which is composed of a polymer compound, salt of electrolyte and solvent (and a plasticizer in a case of the gel electrolyte). Then, positive-electrode active material layer or the negative-electrode active material layer is impregnated with the foregoing solution. Then, the solvent is removed so that a solid electrolyte is obtained. The positive-electrode active material layer or the negative-electrode active material layer is impregnated with a portion of the solid electrolyte laminated on the positive-electrode active material layer or the negative-electrode active material layer so that the foregoing electrolyte is solidified. When the crosslinking type material is employed, light or heat is used to realize crosslinking so that a solid material is obtained.

[0043] The gel electrolyte is composed of the plasticizer containing lithium salt and a matrix polymer in a quantity not less than 2 wt% nor more than 30 wt%. To obtain the gel electrolyte, ester, ether or carbonic ester may solely be employed or as one of the components of the plasticizer.

[0044] The matrix polymer for gelling the carbonic ester in the process for preparing the gel electrolyte may be any one of polymers for use to constitute the gel electrolyte. From a viewpoint of stability of oxidation and reduction, it is preferable that fluorine polymer, for example, poly (vinylidene fluoride) or poly (vinylidene fluoride-co-hexafluoropol-

EP 0 996 179 A1

propylene), is employed.

[0045] The lithium salt which is contained in the gel electrolyte or the polymer solid electrolyte may be lithium salt for use in a usual electrolytic solution of a battery. The lithium compound (salt) is exemplified by the following materials. Note that the present invention is not limited to the following materials.

5 [0046] The lithium compound (salt) is exemplified by: lithium chloride, lithium bromide, lithium iodide, lithium chlorate, lithium perchlorate, lithium bromate, lithium iodate, lithium nitrate, lithium tetrafluoroborate, lithium hexafluorophosphate, lithium acetate, bis (trifluoromethanesulfonyl) imidolithium, LiAsF_6 , LiCF_3SO_3 , $\text{LiC}(\text{SO}_2\text{CF}_3)_3$, LiAlCl_4 or LiSiF_6 .

[0047] The foregoing lithium compound may be employed solely or a plurality of the lithium compounds may be mixed. It is preferable that LiPF_6 or LiBF_4 is employed from a viewpoint of stability of oxidation and reduction.

10 [0048] The lithium salt is dissolved at a concentration of 0.1 mol to 3.0 mol in the plasticizer in a case of the gel electrolyte, preferably 0.5 mol/liter to 2.0 mol/liter.

[0049] The battery according to the present invention can be constituted by a method similar to a method for constituting a conventional lithium ion battery except for the structure of the present invention in which the foregoing gel electrolyte or the solid electrolyte containing the foregoing carbonic ester is employed.

15 [0050] The material of the negative electrode of the lithium ion battery may be a material which is able to dope/dedope lithium. The foregoing material of the negative electrode may be a carbon material, such as non-graphitizing carbon or a graphite material. Specifically, any one of the following carbon materials may be employed: pyrocarbon; cokes (pitch cokes, needle cokes or petroleum cokes); graphite; vitreous carbon, a sintered compact of an organic polymer compound (a material obtained by sintering phenol resin or furan resin at a proper temperature so as to be carbonized); carbon fiber and active carbon. As an alternative to this, the material which is able to dope/dedope lithium may be a polymer material, such as polyacetylene or polypyrrole, or oxide, such as SnO_2 . When the negative electrode is manufactured from any one of the foregoing materials, a known binder and the like may be added.

20 [0051] The positive electrode may be manufactured by using metal oxide, metal sulfide or a specific polymer to correspond to the type of the required battery. When the lithium ion battery is manufactured, the active material of the positive electrode may be any one of the following materials: metal sulfide or oxide which does not contain lithium, for example, TiS_2 , MoS_2 , NbSe_2 or V_2O_5 ; or composite lithium oxide mainly composed of Li_xMO_2 (where M is one or more types of transition metal and x which varies depending on the state of charge/discharge of the battery is usually not less than 0.05 nor more than 1.10). It is preferable that the transition metal M which constitutes the composite lithium oxide is Co, Ni, Mn or the like. The composite lithium oxide is exemplified by LiCoO_2 , LiNiO_2 , $\text{LiNi}_y\text{Co}_{1-y}\text{O}_2$ (where $0 < y < 1$) and LiMn_2O_4 . The foregoing composite lithium oxide is an active material for the positive electrode which is capable of generating high voltage and which exhibits a satisfactory energy density. Plural types of the foregoing active materials may be contained in the positive electrode. When the active material is employed to manufacture the positive electrode, a known conductive material and a binder may be added.

35 Examples

[0052] Examples and comparative examples of the present invention will now be described on the basis of results of experiments.

40 Manufacture of Sample Batteries

[0053] Initially, the negative electrode was manufactured as follows.

45 [0054] Ninety parts by weight of powder of graphite and 10 parts by weight of poly (vinylidene fluoride-co-hexafluoropropylene) serving as the binder were mixed with each other so that a mix for the negative electrode was prepared. Then, the mix for the negative electrode was dispersed in N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone so that slurry was obtained. The slurry was uniformly applied to either side of elongated copper foil which was a collector for the negative electrode and which had a thickness of 10 μm . Then, wet slurry was dried, and then a compression molding process was performed by operating a roll pressing machine. Thus, the negative electrode was manufactured.

[0055] On the other hand, the positive electrode was manufactured as follows.

50 [0056] To obtain a positive-electrode active material (LiCoO_2), lithium carbonate and cobalt carbonate were mixed with each other at a ratio of 0.5 mol:1 mol. Then, the mixture was baked in air at 900°C for 5 hours. Then, 91 parts by weight of obtained LiCoO_2 , 6 parts by weight of graphite serving as a conducting material and 10 parts by weight of poly (vinylidene fluoride-co-hexafluoropolypropylene) were mixed with one another so that a mix for the positive electrode was prepared. Then, the mix for the positive electrode was dispersed in N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone so that slurry was obtained. The slurry was uniformly applied to elongated aluminum foil which was a collector of the positive electrode and which had a thickness of 20 μm . Then, wet slurry was dried, and then a compression molding process was performed by operating a roll pressing machine. Thus, the positive electrode was manufactured.

[0057] The gel electrolyte was obtained as follows.

EP 0 996 179 A1

[0058] Each of the negative electrode and the positive electrode was uniformly coated with solution and impregnated with the same which was obtained as follows: 10 parts by weight of poly (vinylidene fluoride-co-hexafluoropolypropylene) having a weight average molecular weight Mw which was 600,000 and 60 parts by weight of diethyl carbonate were mixed and dissolved in 30 parts by weight of a plasticizer composed of 42.5 parts by weight of ethylene carbonate (EC), 42.5 parts by weight of polypropylene carbonate (PC) and 15 parts by weight of LiPF_6 . Then, the negative electrode and the positive electrode were allowed to stand at room temperatures for 8 hours. Then, dimethyl carbonate was vaporized and removed so that a gel electrolyte was obtained.

[0059] The negative electrode and the positive electrode which were coated with the gel electrolyte were pressed against each other such that the gel electrolyte portions faced each other. As a result, a flat gel electrolyte battery having a size 2.5 cm \times 4.0 cm and a thickness of 0.3 mm was manufactured.

[0060] A lead of the terminal of the positive electrode made of aluminum and a lead of the terminal of the negative electrode made of nickel were welded to portions of the electrodes on each of which the active material layer was not applied (the aluminum foil portion of the positive electrode and the copper foil portion of the negative electrode). Then, the battery element was inserted into an encapsulating medium constituted by the laminated film. Then, the laminated film was welded with heat under conditions of 200°C and 10 seconds such that the width of sealing was 5 mm. Thus, test batteries were manufactured.

Examples and Comparative Examples

[0061] As shown in Table 1, the composition of the material, the quantity of the contained titanate coupling material, the thickness of the adhesive layer on the lead of the terminal, the thickness of the olefine resin (the coating layer) applied to the adhesive layer and the terminal subjected to the process were varied to manufacture sample batteries by the above-mentioned method of manufacturing the test battery.

[0062] When only either of the positive electrode or the negative electrode was subjected to the process, the adhesive agent was not applied to the other electrode. Similarly to the innermost layer of the laminated film, only the resin film was previously welded with heat.

EP 0 996 179 A1

Table 1

	Composition of Material	Quantity of Contained Coupling Material (wt%)	Thickness of Adhesive Layer on Lead of Terminal (μm)
Example 1	A-a	3	15
Example 2			
Example 3			
Example 4	A-b	7	3
Example 5			
Example 6			
Example 7	A-c	5	10
Example 8			
Example 9			
Example 10	B-a	5	10
Example 11			
Example 12			
Example 13	B-b	8	10
Example 14			
Example 15			
Example 16	B-c	4	15
Example 17			

EP 0 996 179 A1

	Example 18			
5	Example 19	C-a	4	15
	Example 20			
	Example 21			
10	Example 22	C-b	7	7
	Example 23			
	Example 24			
15	Example 25	C-c	2	10
	Example 26			
20	Example 27			
	Comparative Example 1	A-a	3	15
25	Comparative Example 2			
	Comparative Example 3	A-b	7	0.3
30	Comparative Example 4			120
35	Comparative Example 5			0.7
	Comparative Example 6	A-c	0.1	10
40	Comparative Example 7		0.4	
45	Comparative Example 8		12	

50

55

EP 0 996 179 A1

5	Comparative Example 9	D-d		
	Comparative Example 10	E-e		
10	Comparative Example 11	F-f		

15		Thickness of Olefine Resin Applied to Adhesive Layer (μm)	Terminal Subjected to Process
	Example 1	15	only Al for positive electrode
	Example 2		only Ni for negative electrode
20	Example 3		both of positive and negative electrodes
	Example 4	30	only Al for positive electrode
	Example 5		only Ni for negative electrode
25	Example 6		both of positive and negative electrodes
	Example 7	20	only Al for positive electrode
	Example 8		only Ni for negative electrode
30	Example 9		both of positive and negative electrodes
	Example 10	15	only Al for positive electrode
	Example 11		only Ni for negative electrode
	Example 12		both of positive and negative electrodes
35	Example 13	20	only Al for positive electrode
	Example 14		only Ni for negative electrode
	Example 15		both of positive and negative electrodes
40	Example 16	20	only Al for positive electrode
	Example 17		only Ni for negative electrode
	Example 18		both of positive and negative electrodes
	Example 19	20	only Al for positive electrode
45	Example 20		only Ni for negative electrode
	Example 21		both of positive and negative electrodes
	Example 22	30	only Al for positive electrode
50	Example 23		only Ni for negative electrode
	Example 24		both of positive and negative electrodes
	Example 25	15	only Al for positive electrode
	Example 26		only Ni for negative electrode
55	Example 27		both of positive and negative electrodes

EP 0 996 179 A1

(continued)

		Thickness of Olefine Resin Applied to Adhesive Layer (μm)	Terminal Subjected to Process
5	Comparative Example 1	150	both of positive and negative electrodes
	Comparative Example 2	1	
	10	Comparative Example 3	30
Comparative Example 4			
Comparative Example 5			
Comparative Example 6		20	both of positive and negative electrodes
Comparative Example 7			
15	Comparative Example 8		
	Comparative Example 9	100	both of positive and negative electrodes
Comparative Example 10			
20	Comparative Example 11		

[0063] The resin for use to form the innermost layer of the laminated film in Table was as follows.

- A: CPP (cast polypropylene)
- 25 B: PE (polyethylene) denatured CPP
- C: LLDPE (straight-chain low-density polyethylene)
- D: LLDEP denatured with maleic acid
- E: CPP denatured with maleic acid
- 30 F: PE denatured with acrylic acid

[0064] The composition of the adhesive layer formed on the lead of the terminal of the electrode was as follows:

- a: A mixed material composed of 20 wt% EPR (ethylenepropylene rubber), 40 wt% toluene and 40 wt% xylene was mixed and dissolved at 60°C, followed by adding diisopropoxybis (ethylacetoacetate) titanium was added in such a manner that the composition shown in Table 1 was realized. After application, the applied solution was dried at 150°C for one hour.
- 35 b: A mixed material composed of 20 wt% of CPP denatured with PE, 10 wt% of decalin and 70 wt% of toluene was mixed and dissolved at 40°C, followed by adding tetraisopropoxy titanium was added in such a manner that the composition shown in Table 1 was realized. After application, the applied solution was dried at 150°C for one hour.
- 40 c: A mixed material composed of 10 wt% of EPR, 10 wt% of CPP denatured with PE, 10 wt% of decalin and 70 wt% of toluene was mixed and dissolved at 40°C, followed by adding tetra-n-butoxy titanium was added in such a manner that the composition shown in Table 1 was realized. After application, the applied solution was dried at 150°C for one hour.
- 45 d: Films made of LLCEP denatured with maleic acid and each having a thickness of 100 μm were welded to the upper and lower surfaces of the electrode such that the films faced each other.
- e: Films made of CPP denatured with maleic acid and each having a thickness of 100 μm were welded to the upper and lower surfaces of the electrode such that the films faced each other.
- 50 f: Films made of PE denatured with acrylic acid and each having a thickness of 100 μm were welded to the upper and lower surfaces of the electrode such that the films faced each other.

Evaluation

[0065] The test batteries according to Examples 1 to 27 and Comparative Examples 1 to 11 were introduced into a thermo-hygrostat tank set to 70°C and relative humidity of 90 %. After a lapse of 720 hours, the concentration of water was measured by the Karl Fischer's method.

[0066] The test batteries according to Examples 1 to 27 and Comparative Examples 1 to 11 were introduced into a

EP 0 996 179 A1

thermo-hygrostat tank set to 40° C and 65 % which was the relative humidity to perform charge/discharge cycle tests at 2-hour discharge (1/2C) of theoretical capacity such that the charge and discharge were performed 500 times. Thus, retention ratios of the discharge capacities were measured.

[0067] Results were shown in Table 2.

5

Table 2

10

15

20

25

30

35

40

45

50

55

	Concentration of Water (ppm)	Discharge Capacity Retention Ratio (%)
Example 1	3	90
Example 2	3	90
Example 3	2	93
Example 4	5	90
Example 5	3	90
Example 6	1	95
Example 7	4	89
Example 8	3	91
Example 9	2	97
Example 10	5	90
Example 11	3	90
Example 12	1	96
Example 13	3	91
Example 14	3	91
Example 15	1	96
Example 16	2	91
Example 17	4	90
Example 18	2	93
Example 19	3	92
Example 20	2	92
Example 21	1	95
Example 22	4	90
Example 23	2	91
Example 24	1	96
Example 25	3	90
Example 26	2	91
Example 27	1	95
Comparative Example 1	12	70
Comparative Example 2	7	78
Comparative Example 3	9	75
Comparative Example 4	9	77
Comparative Example 5	8	75
Comparative Example 6	9	80
Comparative Example 7	7	78

EP 0 996 179 A1

Table 2 (continued)

	Concentration of Water (ppm)	Discharge Capacity Retention Ratio (%)
Comparative Example 8	7	77
Comparative Example 9	15	68
Comparative Example 10	15	70
Comparative Example 11	97	30

[0068] As can be understood from Table 2, Examples 1 to 27 structured such that the adhesiveness of the leads of the terminals of the electrodes were improved without dependency on the improvement in the polarity of the olefine resin and the adhesive layer and the olefine resin layer formed on the adhesive layer were caused to have optimum thicknesses such that excessive enlargement of the thicknesses were prevented were able to satisfactory prevent introduction of water. Therefore, satisfactory cycle resistance characteristics were confirmed. Comparative Examples 1 to 8 were resulted in unsatisfactory moistureproofing characteristics as compared with the examples because the thicknesses of the layers were not optimized and the quantity of the coupling agent was not set properly. Comparative Examples 9 to 11 resulted in furthermore unsatisfactory results because of the moisture absorption of the employed resin.

[0069] As can be understood from the foregoing description, the present invention is able to maintain the adhesiveness of the leads of the terminals of the electrode in the heat-welded portions with the case without deterioration in the moistureproofing characteristics. As a result, a nonaqueous-electrolyte secondary battery exhibiting excellent moistureproofing characteristics and a long lifetime against charge/discharge cycles can be provided.

[0070] Although the invention has been described in its preferred form and structure with a certain degree of particularity, it is understood that the present disclosure of the preferred form can be changed in the details of construction and in the combination and arrangement of parts without departing from the spirit and the scope of the invention as hereinafter claimed.

Claims

1. A nonaqueous-electrolyte secondary battery comprising:

a case constituted by laminated films;

a battery element accommodated in said case and encapsulated in said case by heat welding; and

leads of terminals of electrodes electrically conducted with said electrodes which are exposed to the outside portion of said case such that said leads are surrounded by heat-welded portions, wherein a portion of at least either of said leads of said terminals of said electrodes corresponding to said heat-welded portion is coated with an olefine adhesive layer containing a titanate coupling material and a coating layer made of resin which is the same as resin which forms the innermost layer of each of said laminated films.

2. A nonaqueous-electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 1, wherein said lead of said terminal of said electrode coated with said olefine adhesive layer containing said titanate coupling material and said coating layer made of the resin which is the same as the resin which forms the innermost layer of said laminated films is a lead of a terminal of an electrode for a negative electrode.

3. A nonaqueous-electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 2, wherein said lead of said terminal of said electrode for said negative electrode is made of nickel.

4. A nonaqueous-electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 1, wherein the quantity of said titanate coupling material contained in said olefine adhesive layer is 0.3 wt% to 20 wt%.

5. A nonaqueous-electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of said olefine adhesive layer is 0.5 μm to 100 μm .

6. A nonaqueous-electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of said coating layer is 1

EP 0 996 179 A1

μm to 100 μm .

- 5
7. A nonaqueous-electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 1, wherein an electrolyte which constitutes said battery element is a gel electrolyte or a solid electrolyte containing matrix polymer and lithium salt.
8. A nonaqueous-electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 7, wherein said matrix polymer is polyvinylidene-fluoride and/or copolymer of vinylidene fluoride and hexafluoropropylene.
- 10
9. A nonaqueous-electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 1, wherein said negative electrode which constitutes said battery element is a negative electrode containing a material which is capable of doping/dedoping lithium.
10. A nonaqueous-electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 9, wherein said material which is capable of doping/dedoping lithium is a carbon material.
- 15
11. A nonaqueous-electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 1, wherein said positive electrode which constitutes said battery element is a positive electrode containing a composite oxide of lithium and transition metal.
- 20
- 25
- 30
- 35
- 40
- 45
- 50
- 55

EP 0 996 179 A1

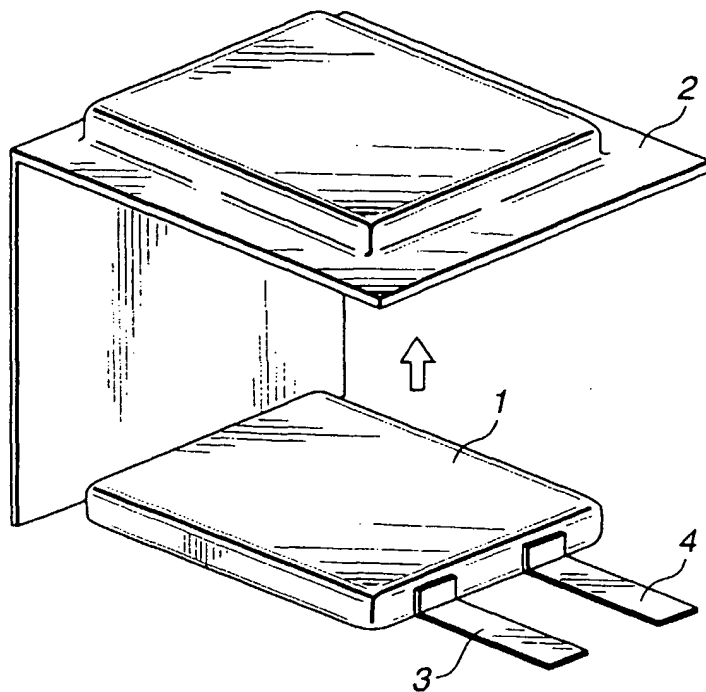


FIG.1

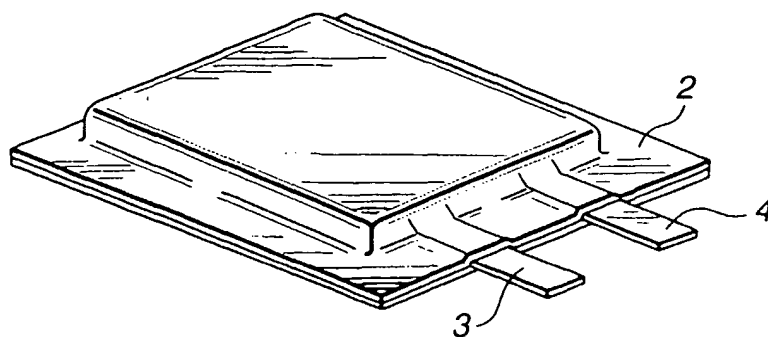


FIG.2

EP 0 996 179 A1

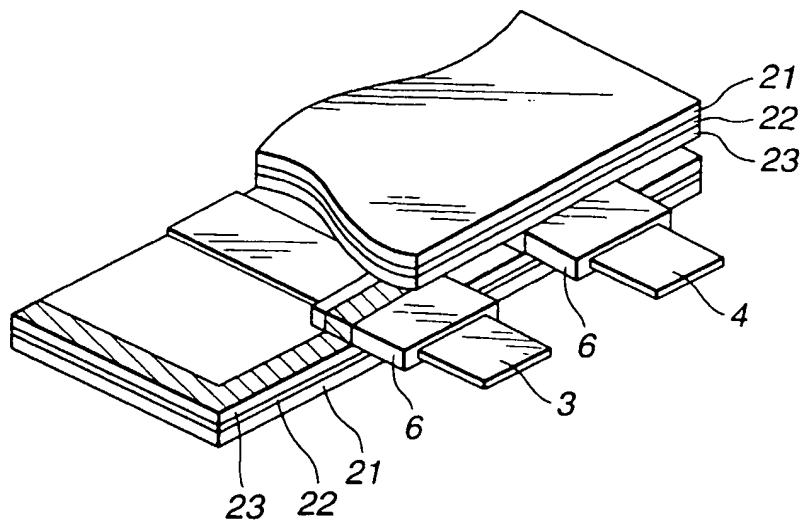


FIG.3

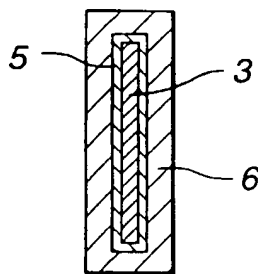


FIG.4

EP 0 996 179 A1

European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 99 12 1063

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
D, A	EP 0 852 404 A (SUMITOMO ELECTRIC INDUSTRIES) 8 July 1998 (1998-07-08) * page 2, line 33 - line 50 * * page 3, line 14 - line 37 * * page 4, line 3 - line 22 * * page 4, line 31 - line 37 * * figures 1,2; example 1 *	1,3,5, 9-11	H01M2/06 H01M2/08 H01M2/30 H01M10/40 H01M2/02
P, A	EP 0 938 145 A (SONY CORP) 25 August 1999 (1999-08-25) * page 5, line 18 - line 22 * * page 2, line 31 - line 38 * * page 5, line 39 - line 44 * * page 6, line 8 - line 17 * * page 7, line 1 - line 15 * * page 7, line 48 - page 8, line 7 * * page 9, line 48 - line 54 * * page 11, line 3 - line 15 * * page 12, line 6 - line 21 * * page 15, line 43 - line 45 * * claims 1,4,14-16; figures 8,9A,9B *	1,5-7, 9-11	
A	EP 0 862 227 A (SONY CORP) 2 September 1998 (1998-09-02) * column 3, line 49 - column 4, line 23 * * column 4, line 42 - line 58 * * column 6, line 1 - line 22 * * column 6, line 39 - line 48 * * column 7, line 1 - line 5 * * column 8, line 44 - column 9, line 8 * * figure 7; examples 4,6 *	1,3,6,7, 9-11	H01M
-/-			
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 17 February 2000	Examiner Gamez, A
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

EPO FORM 1503 (03/02) (P04001)

EP 0 996 179 A1

European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 99 12 1063

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
A	WO 97 24771 A (IDEMITSU PETROCHEMICAL CO ; OKADA AKIHIKO (JP); CHINO SHINJI (JP);) 10 July 1997 (1997-07-10) - & EP 0 874 408 A (IDEMITSU PETROCHEMICAL CO) 28 October 1998 (1998-10-28) * page 2, line 5 - line 10 * * page 3, line 5 - line 13 * * page 5, line 5 - line 7 * * page 5, line 18 - line 25 * * page 7, line 20 - line 23 * * page 8, line 28 - line 43 *	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 17 February 2000	Examiner Gamez, A
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

EPO FORM 1800 (2-92) (P04001)

EP 0 996 179 A1

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 99 12 1063

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

17-02-2000

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0852404 A		08-07-1998	JP 9288998 A	04-11-1997
			US 6001505 A	14-12-1999
			WO 9740540 A	30-10-1997
EP 0938145 A		25-08-1999	JP 11312514 A	09-11-1999
EP 0862227 A		02-09-1998	JP 10302756 A	13-11-1998
			CN 1192058 A	02-09-1998
			SG 63814 A	30-03-1999
WO 9724771 A		10-07-1997	JP 9180689 A	11-07-1997
			EP 0874408 A	28-10-1998

EPO FORM P0489

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82